

December 15, 1965

Executive Committee
United Community Corporation
124 Branford Place
Newark, New Jersey

PRESENT:

C. Willard Heckel, President, presiding; Rabbi Jonathan J. Prinz, Rev. B. F. Johnson, Msgr. Joseph A. Dooling, Francis Quillan, Dr. Thomas Reynolds, Timothy Still, Miss Hilda Hidalgo, Mrs. Ceil Arons, Andrew Washington, Mrs. Estelle Pierce, Arthur Kaufman for Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio, Sidney Reitman

STAFF:

Donald M. Wendell, Fleming Jones, Mrs. Bess Norman, James H. Blair, Albert Alba, Norman Steinlauf, Mrs. Beatrice V. Easley

MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held December 8th were approved as mailed.

CORRESPONDENCE

AND PROPOSALS:

Dean Heckel read letters from the Baptist Ministeres Conference of Newark and the Council of Puerto Rican Organizations, both in support of UCC, and noted that the letter from the Council pointed out the involvement in UCC and Pre-School of Spanish-speaking people. He also noted that on Monday night the Presbytery of Newark voted to publicly commend the UCC and to publicly protest the attitude reflected by the Committee of the City Council. The Presbytery also requested their churches to take an offering during the month of January to be turned over to UCC as a method of helping the Corporation get necessary funds.

It was also pointed out that at the meeting of the City Council tonight the President of the Newark Citizens for Community Action and the President of the Council of Puerto Rican Organizations would speak in support of UCC.

Dean Heckel also read a letter from Mr. James King, Director of Newark Commission for Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation regarding the Newark Block Rehabilitation Demonstration Project, requesting the proposal be put on the agenda for the Board Meeting on Thursday.

Mr. Blair said that the Community Action Task Force had met again to discuss the proposal and are not in favor of the proposal being funded. However, Mrs. Arons said the Program Committee is still in favor. Dean Heckel instructed the Secretary to add discussion of this proposal to the agenda for the Board Meeting.

Mrs. Arons reported that the Teacher Aide Proposal would not come before the Board of Trustees until the Board of Education has had a chance to meet with the departments concerned, then with the Program Committee and Education Task Force and then with their Board. She added that a meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday afternoon at UCC to discuss the proposal with the Board of Education.

Dean Heckel said that the Board of Trustees would not adjourn its meeting on Thursday, but instead recess so that there can be another meeting to take up the Teacher Aide Proposal.

SUB COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND
LABOR:

Mr. Quillan reported that he had met with the representatives of the Sub-Committee on Education and Labor and they felt that there should be more communication with the Mayor's office than there had been in the past and noted that even though the Mayor is honorary president his name does not appear on our letterhead.

UCC REPLY TO REPORT
COMMITTEE OF CITY
COUNCIL:

Mr. Reitman reported that he had met the previous weekend with the Associate Director and the Community Information Director gathering material for incorporation into the reply to the Special Committee of the City Council and that portions of our document had been written. He added that the report of the Committee is being analyzed and we view this as an opportunity not simply to attack the report, but to relate the story and philosophy of UCC and the way it envisions its role in the community.

There was discussion on when the press conference would be held and concern expressed about the length of our reply. It was pointed out that a press release would be issued summarizing the report and the basic purpose of the press conference is to talk about the report.

Dean Heckel asked that a motion be made not to have a meeting of the Executive Committee next week but that he be authorized to call the Officers into session for the press conference at a time to be specified. SO MOVED, SECONDED AND PASSED.

Rabbi Prinz MOVED that Mr. Reitman, the Associate Director and the Community Information Director be commended for their work which, he considered, is above and beyond the call of duty. SECONDED AND PASSED.

Mr. Reitman asked that it be made a matter of record that Mrs. Easley spent Saturday and Sunday working and helping to gather material for our reply and Mr. Blair was also present a portion of the time.

AREA BOARDS:

Mr. Blair reported that the organization meeting for Area Board 9, the Weequahic Area, is being held tonight. He said that originally the meeting had been scheduled to be held in the Berkeley Savings and Loan Association but after receiving a letter from an official of the association withdrawing their premises as a meeting place, stating they had received several complaints from residents and threats from depositors to withdraw their accounts, the meeting would now be held at Maple Avenue School. Letters have been mailed, leaflets distributed in the schools and telephone calls made to announce the new meeting place. In addition, someone will be in front of the Association to indicate that the meeting place has been changed and a shuttle service will be provided for those who need transportation.

The organization meeting for Area Board 8 has been held. Councilman Addonizio attended the meeting and told the 112 people present that FHA would not grant loans to anyone in the area if a poverty board is established. Mr. Blair said that temporary officers were elected and the chairman, who is very cooperative, will survey the residents to find out if they want an area board. There are presently 301 families living in the housing project in the area. He added that we are checking to find out if the councilman's statement is correct.

Area Board 7 has elected temporary officers.

Mr. Blair said he had been meeting with and working with the New Jersey State Employment Service to get aides to work in the Area Boards.

Dean Heckel, on behalf of the Executive Committee, commended Mr. Blair and his staff on the vital services they are performing.

STAFF: Mr. Alba reported that there are presently 56 people on staff out of 77. The 77 staff lines include those lines approved in the reallocated budget and we hope to have all lines filled by the end of the year. He added that 45 out of the 56, better than 80% live in Newark.

BLAZER: Mr. Wendell reported that Blazer has some staff and there are presently 60 trainees. They are seeking more space. Mrs. Norman added that some of the parents in this program had a problem in relation to their young children and a meeting is being

arranged with Pre-School to work out an all day program for these children.

Because of the lateness of the hour it was MOVED
TO TABLE discussion on the paper Mr. Jones wrote on the City In-Kind
Contribution and the philosophy of depositing UCC funds in savings and loan
associations. SECONDED AND PASSED.

There being no further business the meeting was
adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beatrice V. Easley
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